

What is Claimed is:

1. A driving device for transporting an object, comprising:

5           guide means connected with the object for guiding the object; and

              driving means attached to the object for providing the object a driving force which is larger than an interactive force between the object and the guide means.

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2. The driving device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the driving means comprises a piezoelectric element fixed by a first end to the object and powered by a supply voltage.

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3. The driving device as set forth in claim 2, further comprising a weight of a predetermined mass attached to a second end of the piezoelectric element opposite to the first end.

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4. The driving device as set forth in claim 1, further comprising elastic means for enabling elastic contact between the object and the guide means to provide the object and the guide means with an interactive force proportional to an elastic force.

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5. The driving device as set forth in claim 2, wherein

absolute values of the supply voltage per time fed to the piezoelectric element are different from each other before and after a peak.

5        6. A driving device for transporting a lens of an optical instrument, comprising:

guide means connected perpendicularly with the lens for guiding reciprocating movement of the lens; and

10      driving means arranged coplanar with the lens and fixed by a first end to a periphery of the lens for providing the lens with a transport force which is larger than an interactive force between the lens and the guide means.

15      7. The driving device as set forth in claim 6, wherein the driving means comprises a piezoelectric element powered by a supply voltage.

20      8. The driving device as set forth in claim 7, further comprising a weight of a predetermined mass attached to a second end of the piezoelectric element opposite to the first end.

25      9. The driving device as set forth in claim 8, wherein the piezoelectric element comprises a plurality of element sections which are arranged in the periphery of the lens, spaced at an equal interval.

10. The driving device as set forth in claim 8, wherein  
the piezoelectric element is shaped as a ring surrounding an  
entire periphery of the lens.

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11. The driving device as set forth in claim 7, further  
comprising a lens frame for surrounding the periphery of the  
lens, wherein the first end of the piezoelectric element is  
fixed to the lens frame.

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12. The driving device as set forth in claim 6, wherein  
the guide means is extended through the lens in a position  
adjacent to the periphery of the lens.

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13. The driving device as set forth in claim 12, wherein  
the guide means comprises at least one bar of a polygonal cross  
section.

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14. The driving device as set forth in claim 12, wherein  
the guide means comprises at least two bars of a circular cross  
section.

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15. The driving device as set forth in claim 6, further  
comprising elastic means for enabling elastic contact between  
the lens and the guide means to provide the lens and the guide

means with an interactive force proportional to an elastic force.

16. The driving device as set forth in claim 7, wherein  
5 absolute values of the supply voltage per time fed to the piezoelectric element are different from each other before and after a peak.

17. A driving device for transporting a lens in an optical  
10 instrument, comprising:

guide means connected perpendicularly with the lens for guiding reciprocating movement of the lens; and

driving means having a first end fixed perpendicularly to a face of the lens to provide the lens with a transport force  
15 which is larger than an interactive force between the lens and the guide means.

18. The driving device as set forth in claim 17, wherein  
the driving means comprises a piezoelectric element powered by  
20 a supply voltage.

19. The driving device as set forth in claim 18, further comprising a weight of a predetermined mass attached to a second end of the piezoelectric element opposite to the first end.

20. The driving device as set forth in claim 19, wherein the piezoelectric element comprises a plurality of element sections arranged in the face of the lens adjacent to a periphery of the lens, spaced at an equal interval.

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21. The driving device as set forth in claim 19, wherein the piezoelectric element is shaped as a ring arranged in the face of the lens adjacent to the periphery thereof.

10        22. The driving device as set forth in claim 18, further comprising a lens frame for surrounding the periphery of the lens, wherein the first end of the piezoelectric element is fixed to the lens frame.

15        23. The driving device as set forth in claim 17, further comprising elastic means for enabling elastic contact between the lens and the guide means to provide the lens and the guide means with an interactive force proportional to an elastic force.

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24. The driving device as set forth in claim 17, wherein the guide means is extended through the lens in a position adjacent to the periphery of the lens.

25        25. The driving device as set forth in claim 24, wherein

the guide means comprises at least one bar of a polygonal cross section.

26. The driving device as set forth in claim 24, wherein  
5 the guide means comprises at least two bars of a circular cross section.

27. The driving device as set forth in claim 17, wherein  
the guide means comprises an external frame contacting with a  
10 peripheral surface of the lens to guide reciprocating movement  
of the lens.

28. The driving device as set forth in claim 27, wherein  
the lens has at least one segment projected radially from the  
15 periphery of the lens, and wherein the external frame has a  
recess formed along a route of the lens for receiving the  
projected segment.

29. The driving device as set forth in claim 28, wherein  
20 the piezoelectric element is fixed with a portion of the  
projected segment.

30. The driving device as set forth in claim 18, wherein  
absolute values of the supply voltage per time fed to the  
25 piezoelectric element are different from each other before and

after a peak.

31. A method of transporting a lens with the driving device according to claim 6, the method comprising the following 5 steps of:

(a) moving the second end of the driving means along a transport direction of the lens at a first velocity; and

(b) restoring the driving means to its original configuration at a second velocity faster than the first 10 velocity of the second end of the driving means in the step (a) to move the lens which is fixed with the first end of the driving means.

32. The method of transporting a lens as set forth in 15 claim 31, wherein the driving means comprises a piezoelectric element powered by a supply voltage, and wherein the supply voltage per time fed to the piezoelectric element in the step (a) has an absolute value smaller than that of the supply voltage in the step (b).

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33. A method of transporting a lens with the driving device according to claim 6, the method comprising the following steps of:

(a) moving the second end of the driving means along a 25 transport direction of the lens at a first velocity; and

(b) operating the driving means at a second velocity faster than the first velocity of the second end of the driving means in the step (a) to move the lens, which is fixed to the first end of the driving means, along the transport direction 5 of the lens beyond a position of the lens that will be achieved by restoration of the driving means to its original position; and

(c) restoring the second end of the driving means to its original configuration.

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34. The method of transporting a lens as set forth in claim 33, wherein the driving means comprises a piezoelectric element powered by a supply voltage, and wherein the supply voltage per time fed to the piezoelectric element in the step 15 (a) has an absolute value smaller than that of the supply voltage in the step (b).

35. A driving device for transporting a lens of an optical instrument, comprising:

20 guide means connected perpendicularly with the lens for guiding reciprocating movement of the lens;

elastic means for enabling elastic contact between the lens and the guide means to provide the lens and the guide means with an interactive force proportional to an elastic force;

25 piezoelectric driving means being coplanar with the lens,

having a first end fixed to a periphery of the lens, and powered by a supply voltage to provide the lens with a transport force which is larger than an interactive force between the lens and the guide means;

5           a weight of a predetermined mass attached to a second end of the piezoelectric driving means opposite to the first end.

36. The driving device as set forth in claim 35, wherein  
the piezoelectric driving means comprises a plurality of  
10 sections which are arranged in the periphery of the lens, spaced  
at an equal interval.

37. The driving device as set forth in claim 35, wherein  
the piezoelectric driving means is shaped as a ring surrounding  
15 an entire periphery of the lens.

38. The driving device as set forth in claim 35, further  
comprising a lens frame for surrounding the periphery of the  
lens, wherein the first end of the piezoelectric driving means  
20 is fixed to the lens frame.

39. The driving device as set forth in claim 35, wherein  
the guide means is extended through the lens in a position  
adjacent to the periphery of the lens.

40. The driving device as set forth in claim 39, wherein the guide means comprises at least one bar of a polygonal cross section.

5       41. The driving device as set forth in claim 39, wherein the guide means comprises at least two bars of a circular cross section.

10     42. The driving device as set forth in claim 35, wherein absolute values of the supply voltage per time fed to the piezoelectric element are different from each other before and after a peak.

15     43. A driving device for transporting a lens of an optical instrument, comprising:

guide means extended through the lens in a position adjacent to the periphery of the lens for guiding reciprocating movement of the lens;

20     elastic means for enabling elastic contact between the lens and the guide means to provide the lens and the guide means with an interactive force proportional to an elastic force;

25     piezoelectric driving means having a first end fixed perpendicularly to a face of the lens, and powered by a supply voltage to provide the lens with a transport force which is larger than an interactive force between the lens and the guide

means; and

a weight of a predetermined mass attached to a second end of the piezoelectric driving means opposite to the first end.

5        44. The driving device as set forth in claim 43, wherein the piezoelectric element comprises a plurality of element sections arranged in the face of the lens adjacent to a periphery of the lens, spaced at an equal interval.

10        45. The driving device as set forth in claim 43, wherein the piezoelectric element is shaped as a ring arranged in the face of the lens adjacent to the periphery thereof.

15        46. The driving device as set forth in claim 43, further comprising a lens frame for surrounding the periphery of the lens, wherein the first end of the piezoelectric element is fixed to the lens frame.

20        47. The driving device as set forth in claim 43, wherein the guide means comprises at least one bar of a polygonal cross section.

25        48. The driving device as set forth in claim 43, wherein the guide means comprises at least two bars of a circular cross section.

49. The driving device as set forth in claim 43, wherein  
absolute values of the supply voltage per time fed to the  
piezoelectric element are different from each other before and  
5 after a peak.

50. A driving device for transporting a lens of an optical  
instrument, comprising:

an external frame being in contact with a peripheral  
10 surface of the lens for guiding reciprocating movement of the  
lens;

elastic means for enabling elastic contact between the  
lens and the external frame to provide the lens and the external  
frame with an interactive force proportional to an elastic  
15 force;

piezoelectric driving means having a first end fixed  
perpendicularly to a face of the lens, and powered by a supply  
voltage to provide the lens with a transport force which is  
larger than an interactive force between the lens and the guide  
20 means; and

a weight of a predetermined mass attached to a second end  
of the piezoelectric driving means opposite to the first end.

51. The driving device as set forth in claim 50, wherein  
25 the piezoelectric element comprises a plurality of element

sections arranged in the face of the lens adjacent to a periphery of the lens, spaced at an equal interval.

52. The driving device as set forth in claim 50, wherein  
5 the piezoelectric element is shaped as a ring arranged in the face of the lens adjacent to the periphery thereof.

53. The driving device as set forth in claim 50, further comprising a lens frame for surrounding the periphery of the 10 lens, wherein the first end of the piezoelectric element is fixed to the lens frame.

54. The driving device as set forth in claim 50, wherein the lens has at least one segment projected radially from the 15 periphery of the lens, and wherein the external frame has a recess formed along a route of the lens for receiving the projected segment.

55. The driving device as set forth in claim 54, wherein  
20 the piezoelectric element is fixed with a portion of the projected segment.

56. The driving device as set forth in claim 50, absolute values of the supply voltage per time fed to the piezoelectric 25 element are different from each other before and after a peak.

57. A method of transporting a lens with the driving device according to claim 17, the method comprising the following steps of:

- 5           (a) moving the second end of the driving means along a transport direction of the lens at a first velocity; and
- (b) restoring the driving means to its original configuration at a second velocity faster than the first velocity of the second end of the driving means in the step (a)
- 10          to move the lens which is fixed with the first end of the driving means.

58. The method of transporting a lens as set forth in claim 57, wherein the driving means comprises a piezoelectric element powered by a supply voltage, and wherein the supply voltage per time fed to the piezoelectric element in the step (a) has an absolute value smaller than that of the supply voltage in the step (b).

20          59. A method of transporting a lens with the driving device according to claim 17, the method comprising the following steps of:

- (a) moving the second end of the driving means along a transport direction of the lens at a first velocity; and
- 25          (b) operating the driving means at a second velocity

faster than the first velocity of the second end of the driving means in the step (a) to move the lens, which is fixed to the first end of the driving means, along the transport direction of the lens beyond a position of the lens that will be achieved  
5 by restoration of the driving means to its original position; and

(c) restoring the second end of the driving means to its original configuration.

10        60. The method of transporting a lens as set forth in claim 59, wherein the driving means comprises a piezoelectric element powered by a supply voltage, and wherein the supply voltage per time fed to the piezoelectric element in the step (a) has an absolute value smaller than that of the supply voltage  
15      in the step (b).